

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Antibiotic and Chemotherapy.** By M. BARBER AND L. P. GARROD. 1963. Pp. 366. Livingstone, Edinburgh. (35s.)

One of the authors of this book ended a lecture by saying: "The usefulness of antibiotics to the practitioner can be preserved or destroyed only by himself. Used indiscriminately they will fail him: applied intelligently and for adequate reason they should continue to serve him for many years." The manufacturers have cast their nets so wide in screening programmes for detecting antibiotic-producing micro-organisms that it seems unlikely that many more naturally occurring antibiotics await development. The successes of the organic chemists in manipulating the side chains of the penicillin nucleus have made available a series of new antibiotics but Professor Garrod's warning is more than ever a cogent one.

This handbook by two leading authorities appears at an opportune moment when the wide variety of antibacterial agents available and the changing patterns of sensitivity of many organisms often makes the clinician's choice of the most effective antibiotic for his patient a difficult one. The first half of the book surveys the sulphonamides and antibiotics in general use, gives details of their composition, mode of action, toxic effects, and range of activity, and ends with an account of drug resistance. The remaining chapters deal with the general principles of treatment with antibiotics and infections of bodily systems and the laboratory control of treatment. The section on the treatment of venereal diseases is short and to the point and represents current practice.

This book is very clearly written and an impressive amount of information has been compressed into a relatively small space by the liberal use of tabular presentation. It is well documented and the references range from 1611 (a biblical reference) to papers published in 1963. There is a good index and the printing and production are of a high quality. As a moderately-priced guide to the intelligent use of antibiotics it can be highly recommended to clinicians and laboratory workers alike. A.E.W.

**Bibliography on Yaws.** World Health Organization, Geneva, 1963. Pp. 106. Obtainable from H.M.S.O., P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. (13s. 4d.; \$2.75)

This bibliography contains 1,726 references covering material published between 1905 and 1962. The references are arranged alphabetically by author and each item is numbered. A short introduction and a combined subject

and geographical index in English and French are included. The availability since 1948 of long-acting penicillin has made possible yaws control campaigns in many of the endemic areas and has stimulated interest in all aspects of this non-venereal treponematoses. This bibliography will assist interested workers to become acquainted with what has been recorded in the past half-century. S.M.L.

**Venereology for Nurses. A Textbook of the Sexually-transmitted Diseases.** By R. D. CATTERALL. 1964. Pp. xiii & 139, 49 figs. English Universities Press, London. (8s. 6d.).

The Modern Nursing Series aims to provide a comprehensive range of text-books and manuals written specially for students of nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, radiography, speech therapy, and public health, and is designed to cover the requirements of the State Registration Examinations conducted by the General Nursing Council. This new addition to the Series meets a real need and should become popular with nurses, midwives, and health visitors.

This paperback (stiff cover edition also available at 15s.) of 139 pages is crammed with information about the sexually-transmitted diseases met with in V.D. clinics in England. It has a good index and a helpful glossary and most of the 49 black-and-white drawings add value to the text. Dr. Catterall's teaching is orthodox and the two chapters on the work and attitude of female and male clinic nurses, contributed by his senior nursing colleagues in Leeds, are valuable. This book is too comprehensive for the nurse in training but will be excellent for sister tutors, midwives, health visitors, and qualified nurses who choose to work in the V.D. clinic; it will also provide the medical undergraduate with a good introduction to the subject. S.M.L.

**The Organization of Venereal Diseases Clinics.** By SOCRATES DE NORONHA. 1962. Issued by the Bombay Social Hygiene Council, Museum, Bombay, 1.

Dr. de Noronha, the honorary secretary of the Bombay Social Hygiene Council, has devoted much of his life to the study and control of venereal diseases. He understands the importance of the social factors involved, advocates increased lay education, and presses for the provision of good facilities for free diagnosis and treatment. He describes in a somewhat discursive manner the fruits of his studies and work in Bombay during the past half-century. Although there are some inaccuracies, his knowledge and enthusiasm illuminate brightly this small book of 190 pages. S.M.L.